Import of oil from Saudi Arabia

†775.SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the crude oil imported from Saudi Arabia during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the foreign currency incurred on account of import of crude oil during the said period;

(c) whether Government has any plan to save the foreign currency being incurred on the import of crude oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of the crude oil imported from Saudi Arabia and the cost in foreign currency incurred on account of such imports during the last three years, till date, are as under:-

Year	Quantity (TMT)	Value (US$, million)
2005-06	25289	9808
2006-07	24626	10846
2007-08	26989	15569
2008-09 (Apr-Dec, 2008) (Provisional)	20954	14606

TMT - Thousand Metric Tonnes

US$ - US dollars

(c) and (d) The Government has formulated several plans to save foreign exchange on the import of crude oil which are as follows:

i. Carving out more and more areas of exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) / Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy.

ii. Quicker development of discovered oil and gas reserves for enabling commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

vii. Exploration of gas hydrates, by participating in the Gas Hydrates programme in cooperation with other countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

viii. Extracting gas from deep-seated and/or isolated coal deposit/lignite resources under the Underground Coal Gasification programme.

ix. Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio-diesel, Ethanol-blended Petrol, etc.

White paper on petro-prices

776. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government would come out with a white paper on the cost and profit factors of the price, the consumer is paying, in view of rising international prices of oil and Government's imposing duties on oil both indigenous and imported; and

(b) whether Government is taking the energy conservation seriously and ban future trading in crude oil forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) The Government has taken several initiatives for promoting energy conservation in the country, which include:

(i) Promoting alternative fuels such as bio-fuels, hydrogen & fuel cells and development of electric and hybrid vehicles;

(ii) Subject to commercial viability, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are committed to selling 5% Ethanol blended Petrol as per Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specifications throughout the country except in North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep w.e.f. 1.11.2006;

(iii) Government has also announced a Bio-diesel Policy, which provides for 20 Purchase Centres to be set up by OMCs all over the country for purchasing bio-diesel; and

(iv) A National Hydrogen Energy Board and National Hydrogen Energy Road Map have been set up which provides pathways for production, storage and use of Hydrogen Energy in the country upto the year 2020.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has informed that there is no proposal for banning future trading in crude oil.

Harassment of LPG Consumer in Delhi

777. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of LPG dealers in Delhi do not book cylinders before the expiry of 21 days of their earlier supply to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;